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to meet new conditions of modern life, a certain discretion in its application must be preserved, else the legal system will be reduced to "hopeless formalism and intolerable pedantry." Upon the careful adjustment of these conflicting notions depends the vitality of the law. The law of nature is not a legal source, nor could it be, since its ideals and conceptions are so shifting that it would lack the certainty and definiteness so necessary to legal rules. Its function today is to afford a basis for the criticism of positive law in the light of present-day moral and social ideas to which the positive law must ultimately conform.

As an elementary discussion of the methods and nature of our legal system this volume should serve a useful purpose. It is scientific, accurate, and readable. Coming, as it does, at a time when our legal system seems threatened with popular disapproval based largely upon an ignorance of the nature and necessity of law, it should help materially in securing a more enlightened basis for popular legal criticism and appreciation.

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*Social Justice without Socialism.* By JOHN BATES CLARK. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1914. Pp. 49. \$0.50.

This little volume contains the author's lecture delivered at the University of California on the Barbara Weinstock Foundation. The lecturer seeks "a golden mean between letting the state do nothing and asking it to do everything" (p. 5). He believes that private initiative, stimulated by competition, is the most effective way to increase the production of wealth. With increasing population progress in power of production is essential to human happiness. To supplant private initiative by public monopoly is to reduce production and that would be an unjust act to all society.

The evils of the present system are not inherent, and their elimination through more effective government offers a program of social justice quite as attractive and inspiring as, and more practicable and assuring than, Socialism. The evils which should be eliminated are overworked and unpaid labor, dangerous machinery and preventable disease, taxation discriminatory against the poor, unemployment, wasted natural resources, inefficient public utilities, child labor, delays and cost of legal justice, lack of protection for small investments in productive enterprise, private monopoly, and unfair forms of competition. With

these evils eliminated most of the injustice to which the Socialist objects will disappear, and the result would be to "give to every competitor a fair field and no favor, and, in so doing to infuse again into the industrial system the life and vigor which competition guarantees" (p. 30). "Technical progress, power to make two blades of grass grow where one grows now and to do it in the various departments where men labor, is the sole condition of a sound hope for the future of the wage-earner. It will be as necessary under Socialism as under the present system; but under Socialism it will be difficult to get. In so far as it is possible to judge, it depends on the preservation of normal competition in the general economic field" (pp. 31-32).

The author then takes up the division of the social income. It is at present fixed in "a rough-and-ready way though not without some reference to what labor produces and what employers can pay, and not, therefore, without the action of a principle which makes in a powerful way for justice" (pp. 33-34). Beneath the violent struggle of the classes this principle tends to assert itself like the law of gravitation, and if monopolies be excluded and competition be made free and open, this principle may dominate, "till recently American workmen have lived with their employers without hating them; and if wages can be fixed now by some appeal to the principle of justice, they can live with them in that way again" (p. 37). That such a scheme is possible and practicable is the author's firm belief. This will do away with the bitterness of the present strife which is both costly and ineffective.

The lecture is an able plea for the fair trial of the present system with its abuses removed, fair and open competition restored, and the conflict between the classes referred to principles of justice rather than to trials of force.

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*Historical Essays on Apprenticeship and Vocational Education.*

By J. F. SCOTT. Ann Arbor Press, 1914. Pp. 96.

Parts of a Doctor's dissertation are here combined with several essays to form a book which makes little pretence to organic unity. So far as a thesis appears, it is that apprenticeship was a valuable system of education in mediaeval times because adapted to the conditions of social life, but its value was destroyed by the changes incident to the industrial revolution, and a new system of vocational education is therefore necessary. It is, thus, partly a historical account of the development,